Replacement of MIG-21 Aircrafts

*140. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of MIG-21 aircrafts has been causing concern to the Government due to many mishaps;

(b) if so, the details of alternative options being considered to replace MIG-21 aircraft;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to develop and manufacture indigenously, multi-role fighter jets superior to Mirage and MIG-29 aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. The Government has been concerned regarding the accidents of MiG-21. However, aircraft including MiG-21 are cleared to fly only when they are certified 100 % airworthy. Mishaps occur due to a variety of reasons, the major ones being Human. Error and Technical Defect. Preventive measures have been initiated by Indian Air Force (IAF) to identify and remove the causes found responsible for mishaps.

The IAF has formulated modernisation plans to enhance its combat fleet in terms of quality as well as quantity. Plans are in hand to augment squadron force levels and for upgrading the existing fleet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Corrupt practices by CIL officials

765. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official of Coal India Limited complained to Chief Vigilance Commissioner regarding corrupt practices indulged by one General Manager, Personnel of CIL ;

(b) whether the complainant has been transferred subsequently;

(c) the reasons for such transfer;

(d) whether Government have received any representation against this transfer; and

(e) if so, the response of Government on the representation?